



REGIONE DEL VENETO

Colli Euganei.

A park to taste,
drink, and live



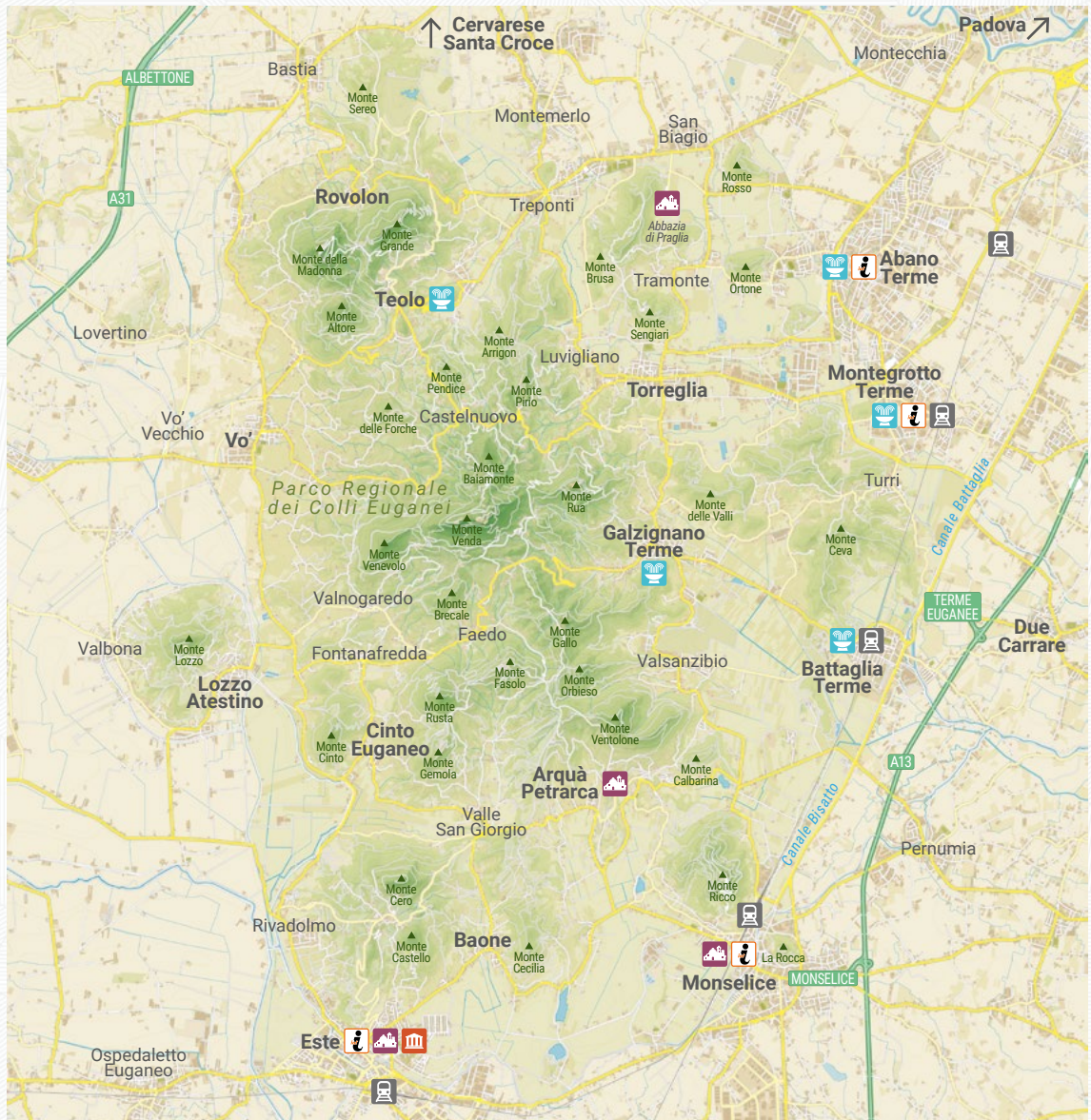
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THERMAE
ABANO
MONTEGROTTO
COLLI EUGANEI NATURAL PARK

The Euganean Hills

A green oasis in the Po Valley



NATURAL PARK

25 marked trails; over 1600 plant species; castles, monasteries, Venetian Villas

THERMAL BATHS

thousands of years of tradition, 240 thermal pools, spas with hyperthermal waters and muds

THE WINE REGION

1 DOCG, 1 DOC, 2 DOP, 2500 ha of wineries, around 150 wine cellars

NEARBY

Padua, 20 km
Vicenza, 40 km
Venice, 50 km

“Se solo potessi mostrarti il secondo Elicona che per te e per le Muse ho allestito sui Colli Euganei penso proprio che di lì non vorresti mai più andartene”

(If I could only show you the second Helicon that I have set up for you and the Muses in the Euganean Hills, I think you would never want to leave.)

Francesco Petrarca, Letter to Maggio di Parma (1369)



Monte Lozzo, a magnificent example of a laccolith from a volcanic eruption

Welcome

Cultivation of grapes and wine making have always been practised by experienced hands in the Euganean Hills. For around fifty years, the **Voluntary Consortium for the Protection of Wines of the Euganean Hills** has safeguarded the origins, traditions, and quality of wines produced in the region. Discover them following the routes and experiences proposed by the **Euganean Hills Wine Road**. Restaurants, taverns, and farm stays guarantee you quality and hospitality at the table.

Discover a natural treasure

The volcanic ridges take their name from the ancient Mediterranean population that, according to myth, founded the first settlements in this area. The civilisations that followed gradually moulded the natural environment, creating a landscape of great beauty.

Arquà Petrarca, Lago della Costa, UNESCO World Heritage archeological area

Volcanic origins

An area of approximately twenty-thousand hectares of clear volcanic origins. Gentle calcareous profiles support steep magmatic cusps, generating this unmistakable landscape.

To this complex geological history dating 50 million years, add the thermal waters and beneficial muds that are found in abundance at the foot of the hills.



Revitalising nature

Chestnut woods and elements of alpine flora co-exist with thermophilic vegetation typical of the Mediterranean coast. Terraces cultivated with grape vines and olive groves alternate with arid meadows and vegetation of the pseudo-Mediterranean scrub. A dense trail network allows you to explore this fascinating Natural Park.





A people of noble origin

People and nature of this territory are linked by ancient traditions. The name of these hills derives from the people that, according to myth, were their first settlers. The Greek myth of the escape from Troy, and the archeological digs in Este, capital of ancient Veneto, give testimony to the Mediterranean roots of this land.



A Monumental Landscape

Numerous Venetian Villas, walled medieval cities and ancient monasteries enrich this attractive landscape that can be explored thanks to numerous itineraries for visitors. Discover villas decorated with frescoes, princely estates, walking paths through luxuriant country gardens and historic parks, take a trip through the past with a visit to a museum in a medieval castle.

Luvigliano di Torreglia, Villa dei Vescovi, 16th century

Food and wine: Ten things you shouldn't miss

For food and wine lovers, we recommend ten essential experiences. From tastings of local products, thematic tours, to meetings with wine makers and artisans: these are all unforgettable experiences.

Grand DOC red wines

Colli Euganei Red, Merlot, Carmènere and Cabernets: a great variety of wines, from elegant to complex, fruity and structured.



Intriguing historic wine cellars

In the Euganean Hills, it's possible to find and purchase unique wines in historic Venetian Villas, monasteries, and old farms.



Fior d'Arancio Colli Euganei DOCG

A bouquet of Mediterranean essences and citrus flavours for an elegant wine that can be appreciated as a spumante, secco, and passito.



MUVI – Museum of Wines of the Euganean Hills

In Vo', visit the wine museum and learn about the heritage of viticulture in this territory, its history, and unique aspects of local wine making culture.



Grappa, Maraschino and Brodo di Giuggiole

The distilled spirits of the Colli Euganei, such as maraschino, with its fragrance of amarena, and brodo di giuggiole, with its smooth, enveloping flavours. Don't miss out on artisanal grappas to be found in numerous cellars.

DOP extra virgin olive oils

Olives have been cultivated on the slopes of the Colli Euganei since before the arrival of the Romans. Local oils have delicate, slightly floral and herbal fragrances. Fruity on the palate, they have low acidity, and at times, an almond finish.



Prosciutto of the Veneto Berico-Euganeo DOP

Sweet prosciutto crudo is obtained by seasoning high quality pork thighs for twelve months from animals raised in the plains between the Colli Euganei and Colli Berici. Visit the historical salumificio shop in the town of Este.



Jujube

A fruit of intense red colour, with an olive-like form and the flavour of crisp pear. In every garden and farmyard, you can find a Jujube plant.



Bigoli and fresh pasta

Bigoli, a thick egg spaghetti, is traditionally made with specialised pasta making machines.



Zaetti and traditional confectionary

Zaetti are biscuits derived from centuries-old Veneto tradition and are made with corn flour. They can be prepared with raisins, chocolate drops, or jujube fruit.

Wineries and olive oil

In these southern-most hills of the Veneto, thanks to their favourable Mediterranean climate, vineyards and olive groves coexist, yielding precious wines and oils. Wineries and olive oil producers await your visit to introduce you to the rich variety of enogastronomic products on offer.

Tours and tasting

Rural hospitality, rich perfumes, and hard work! This is the atmosphere you breathe when you visit wine and olive oil makers at their rural establishments. Your visit begins in the field, moves into the cellar where artisans refine their products, and ends with a tasting. The protagonists of the day are the producers, who reveal the secrets of production and knowledge passed down over generations to guarantee the quality of their products.



Take a tasting course

Cellars organise courses and enogastronomic evenings to help you on your way to becoming an expert taster. In collaboration with local sommeliers, discover the curiosities of various wines, train your senses to appreciate colours, scents, and flavours, and learn about the best food pairings. Be sure not to miss out on olive oil tasting!



Our local farm products

Asparagus, sweet peas from Baone, different varieties of radicchio from the Veneto. In spring, the forest floors are rich with wild herbs while in autumn mushrooms take the spotlight. On family farms, heritage hen, goose, duck, guinea fowl, pig, and rabbit varieties live the atmosphere.

Farm holidays for young and old

Genuine, natural products, animals kept on open farm fields, agricultural exhibitions and activities made to measure for children await you at the farm stays (agriturismi) and educational farms in the Colli Euganei.



A day on the farm

Some farms offer the possibility for guests to return to the rhythms and routines of nature. Activities and guided visits are led by guides who thrive on sharing their knowledge of the territory from a farmer's perspective. Children may participate in educational activities or play with farm animals. Don't miss the butterfly house and the live insect museum.

Euganean hospitality

Rural hospitality in the Euganean Hills is a deeply rooted experience. Today, numerous farm stays offer a wide array of services for those looking to discover the rural side of Euganean life. Local ingredients, usually organic, characterise and valorise farming traditions. Rural hospitality extends from stays in stately historic farm properties to secluded camping grounds on the forest's edge.

Our food and wine events

- *Vulcanei: a tasting of the wines of volcanic soils from the Euganean Hills and elsewhere in Italy, organised by the Euganean Hills Wine Consortium*
- *Open day for wine cellars: organised by companies associated with the Wine Tourism Movement, last weekend in May*
- *Calici di Stelle: Wine festival curated by the wine city of the Euganean Hills, August*
- *Vo' grape fest: parade floats decorated with grapes and tasting events in the piazza. Third Sunday in September*
- *DOC wine show in the villas of Luvigliano di Torreglia, last week in October and first week in November*

Euganean cuisine

The vicinity of the Hills to Padua, traditional crossroads of commerce between Bacchiglione and Adige, combined with the lengthy domination of Venice created the foundations for Euganean food traditions that are in continuous evolution thanks to a rooted tourism culture.

Restaurants and trattorias

If once the kitchens of the Venetian Villas were the artisanal laboratories of cuisine, today the modern kitchens of restaurants and trattorias are experimenting with new food creations that respect local traditions. Beginning with local ingredients of the territory, chefs compose their menus following the flow of seasons, guided by attention to healthy choices. The picture of Euganean cuisine is completed with a selection of local wines and respect for the environment.



Wine bars and taverns

Gathering around the table is an Italian tradition that is renewed daily. In wine bars and taverns, the evening commences with a Serprino based aperitif, and is followed by convivial moments, when dishes of traditional cicchetti are shared in an informal setting. Wine bars and gourmet food markets also offer you the possibility to purchase the typical local food products that you have just tasted.

Food markets

A traditional feature of the Italian lifestyle: what could be more characteristic than agricultural fairs and markets? The piazzas of the Euganean Hills are no exception, and are regularly filled with people and market stands. For every festivity and event, fine food and wine are never missing.

Arquà Petrarca, Calici di Stelle festival



Country fairs and festivities

Traditional festivities and timeless country fairs celebrate the harvest, mark the days of saints, and recall significant historical events in the millennial history of the area. Local organisations regularly program rich combinations of music, food, and events to bring people together and celebrate.

Farmers' markets

Weekly open-air markets, especially those dedicated to farmers are ideal occasions to get to know the variety and quality of Euganean agricultural products and their producers.



Fairs and festivals

- *Este in bloom, Este, April*
- *Gnocchi festival, Teolo, April*
- *Festival of Bisi (peas), Baone, May*
- *Bigoli festival, Abano Terme, June*
- *Jujube festival, Arquà Petrarca, September*
- *Festival of saints, Monselice, November*

Trekking

Walking in the Euganean Hills assumes a particular meaning. Trails worn in ancient times tie history to the landscape and nature with physical wellbeing.

The Park trail system

Over 25 trails are marked and maintained in the Park, with rest areas and interpretive panels. There are trails for expert walkers, such as the Alta Via (high route), and walks accessible to families with children or the physically challenged. Excursion length varies from two hours to entire days.

These foot paths are the best means to explore the rich historical and natural history of this territory.

Ruins of the old Olivetan monastery on Monte Venda, 601 m



The Monte Venda trail

Pivot point of the ridge system and the highest summit in the Euganean Hills, Mount Venda is a satisfying destination for those looking for a physical challenge. The ideal starting point for this excursion is the "Casa Marina", visitor centre, which hosts workshops for environmental education in the Park. Trail number 4 completes a circumnavigation of the summit, reaching the magnificent ruins of the former monastery of the Olivetan order. Trail number 9 conducts you through centuries-old chestnut groves and is equipped for young children and physically challenged.

Valle San Giorgio di Baone, Atestino Trail



The cantina, refuge of Euganea

The cantina is a natural refuge for trekkers wanting to discover the Euganean Hills. It is a departure point for all trails in the Park. Tourists find an inviting environment, supervised parking, tasting of wines, local foods, and souvenirs.

Bicycle touring

For bike lovers, the Euganean Hills becomes a gigantic bike park. Flat bike routes allow cyclists to move around at the foot of the Park's hills, while gravel and paved surface ascents are ideal for fitness and training.

Cinto Euganeo, the Euganean Hills loop



The Euganean Hills loop trail

This itinerary circumnavigates the perimeter of the Park and is rich in scenery and stops for tourists. Nature reveals itself in its myriad forms along this route, while architectural and historic monuments tell the histories of past civilisations. Flat, paved cycling paths for a total of 63 km.

Event: Golosabike

Gastronomic excellence by bike! A guided tour by bike from cellar to cellar. An itinerant menu linked by natural and cultural points of interest along the journey. Last Sunday in May.



MTB, in touch with nature

A dense network of forest paths offers perfect routes for mountain bike lovers. From Galzignano you can find trails designed for bike park riding, from easy options for beginners to challenging descents through woods and vineyards for experts.



Cycling, thermal baths and sports

The Euganean Hills are an open-air training ground for bike lovers. Here, it is possible to combine steep climbs, rolling plains, and low-traffic surface roads with physical recovery in spas and hotels. Thermal pools, muds, and massage are must-try experiences, and are especially beneficial at the beginning and end of the cycling season.

Thermal baths and wellness spas

A millennial tradition renewed: hyperthermal waters feed pools immersed in the deep green of parks and gardens. Natural muds extracted from thermal lakes of the Euganean Hills are used in over 90 hotels.

Natural features for health and energy

240 thermal pools with specialised care units are modern and equipped for every comfort. The thermal baths of Abano Montegrotto are the largest thermal destination in Europe specialised in mud and balneotherapy. Qualified personnel take care of your health. International medical oversight bodies guarantee the therapeutic value of the waters and mud employed in wellness treatments, natural rehabilitation, revitalising massage, athletic preparation, and active aging.



Relax and take time for yourself

An oasis of thermal baths and nature help you escape the stress of everyday life. In wellness hotels you can move in complete liberty between massage rooms, the park, the pool, the gym, and the solarium. The art of massage and thermal dermocosmetics allow you to recover your wellbeing and feel good in your skin.

Heritage and culture

Castles and medieval monasteries, princely palaces and renaissance villas, parks and historic gardens, places of literary significance and small museums complete your wellness holiday for the body, mind, and soul.

Battaglia Terme, Catajo Castle, 16th century



Villas, Castles and historic gardens

Today, as it has been for centuries, castles and fortifications stand over the main points of access to the territory, while numerous Venetian Villas are found along the waterways that connect the Euganean Hills to Padua and Venice. Many of these estates open their gates to allow visitors to admire artistic masterpieces contained within them, and enjoy concerts or historical re-enactments in magnificent halls or historic gardens.

Teolo, Praglia Abbey, 11-15th century



Arquà Petrarca, Petrarca's house 14th century



Itineraries of faith

Praglia Abbey to the north, and the ex-monastery of Carceri to the south are the primary monastic poles of this territory. Numerous convents and hermitages dot the principal peaks of these hills, offering possibilities for visitors to take in these places of importance for religious culture.

The literary park of Francesco Petrarca and the Euganean Hills

The Euganean Hills have, through history, hosted and inspired important international literary figures. Itineraries, publications, historical re-enactments, and 24 plaques valorise the routes that connect the main artistic locations of this territory.



FONDO EUROPEO AGRICOLO PER LO SVILUPPO RURALE: L'EUROPA INVESTE NELLE ZONE RURALI

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GETTING HERE



AIR

Venice, Marco Polo Airport (50 km)
Treviso, Sant'Angelo Airport (70 km)
Verona, Catullo Airport (90 km)
Bologna, Marconi Airport (110 km)

Connections to spas by bus line, train and taxi. Venice and Treviso Airports are served by shuttle service to/from spas in Abano and Montegrotto.



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TRAIN

Stations in Padova and Montegrotto Terme with bus line connections and stations in Battaglia Terme, Monselice and Este.



CAR

Autostrada A13 Padova – Bologna, exit Terme Euganee
Autostrada A4 Milano – Venezia, exit Padova Ovest
Autostrada A31 Vicenza – Rovigo, exit Albettono-Barbarano

MOSVIT PROJECT

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